

This is our first edition!

THE CARBONDALE MIRROR

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25¢

Jermyn council says it is sorry
to its district magistrate.
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The area will not be left with-
out a theater group.
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On display next week

Area MICU 'will be second to none'

"The unit will be second to none — equipment-wise and personnel," Dan O'Rourke, chairman of the drive which raised funds for the area's mobile intensive care unit, told the *Carbondale Mirror* last week.

Passing for a minute, he added that the mobile intensive care unit would be second to none in the entire state.

Two and a half years of hard work and cooperation from all concerned brought about this accomplishment.

It was 2½ years ago that O'Rourke and Ron Tizzano, a paramedic on the mobile intensive care unit based in Scranton, sat down and discussed the need for such a vehicle in the upper valley.

The pair then spoke with Carbondale Mayor Fred J. Mancuso, explaining the need for a mobile intensive care unit (MICU) in the Carbondale area.

The mayor readily agreed and gave his full support to the project.

Contacted next were Richard A. Pascoe, executive director of the Carbondale General Hospital, and Sister Cephas Ryan, executive director of St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbondale. They both pledged their support.

The first two years were spent in planning. First the group got the support and approval of the county, surrounding communities, and the medical community.

The St. Joseph's Hospital administrator said his medical facility would house the vehicle.

O'Rourke explained that the hospital is suitable for the task since it has a 24-hour emergency room, doctor and telemetry equipment to receive vital signs simultane-

ously as the paramedics in the field take them.

During those first two years of planning, the group also held informational meetings with the local volunteer ambulance squads which will be working hand-in-hand with the MICU. Altogether some 11 squads and their 21 vehicles are involved.

Finally, it was time to go public. Fundraising time had come.

The drive to raise the needed \$25,000 was started in March.

Forming the foundation of the drive was a pledge by the Carbondale Kiwanis Club to donate \$12,000 for a vehicle if the drive could raise the rest for the equipment necessary in such a medical vehicle.

From the Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania came matching funds of \$1,000 for the advanced life support equipment (ventilator and defibrillator).

Another \$8,000 was received from community development funds of the Lackawanna County United Way.

The rest of the money was raised through civic organizations, volunteer ambulance and fire companies, industries, church and youth groups, merchants, professionals, doctors, lawyers, and individuals.

All told, the drive raised \$45,000 — \$10,000 more than the goal.

However, cost overruns since the initial estimates were put together ate some of that additional money. Some of the rest went toward equipment not originally planned for.

Principals on the fund drive were Mayor Mancuso, honorary chairman; O'Rourke, chairman; Frank Lavin, co-chairman; Mary

Langan, treasurer; and Georganna Cheripchak, secretary. O'Rourke gave praise to the hundreds of volunteers.

He also praised Sister Cephas and the board of directors of St. Joseph's Hospital for their financial and moral support; Adrian Smolowitz, executive director of Community Medical Center in Scranton, and his board of directors; and the Lackawanna County commissioners.

The latter, O'Rourke told the *Mirror*, have supported the project from day one, supplying the communications equipment: a 100-watt VHF and UHF radio and a portable VHF radio.

The upper valley MICU will be dispatched by the county's communication center.

A non-transport vehicle, the MICU will carry the paramedics to the scene of trauma calls.

The first time such a project will be undertaken in Northeastern Pennsylvania, "a lot of people will be looking at it," O'Rourke said.

Tentative plans call for St. Joseph's Hospital to work with Community Medical Center on the staffing of both the upper valley MICU and the one based in Scranton. The paramedics staffing the two vehicles will be shifted between the two hospitals on a rotating basis.

While the local unit will be owned by and based at St. Joseph's, patients served by it will be taken to the hospital of their choice.

On display
The 1981 Chevrolet Suburban which is the first MICU for the upper valley will be on display at Carbondale's city hall during Pioneer Days, Aug. 24 through 29.



MICU for the upper valley is lettered and ready to be put on display at city hall during Pioneer Days celebration next week. See story at left. (Mirror photo)

City hospitals deny that planned merger is off

Have both Carbondale hospitals lost the "urge to merge?"

Has the long-proposed union of St. Joseph's and Carbondale General Hospitals merely been delayed, or will it be scrapped altogether?

The *Mirror*, fielding persistent rumors that "Carbondale General is building a 150-bed expansion behind its present site," put the question to the General's executive director, Richard A. Pascoe, in a telephone interview.

"I can neither confirm nor deny this," Pascoe replied firmly. "I cannot speak for my board of directors, but as far as I know, no merger has been dropped."

While the *MIRROR* was unable to reach St. Joseph's executive officer, Sister M. Cephas Ryan, IHM, directly, she did leave a message for us with her secretary, i.e., "The merger is still on."

Our call to Sister Cephas followed still another rumor around town that "St. Joseph's will be expanding soon... at its present location."

The merger, which comes under the aegis of the Health Systems Agency of Northeastern Pennsylvania, is expected to be discussed at a meeting of that group in the near future.

Pascoe denied that a large water tower would be built at the present General site. "That... I don't believe... is absolutely untrue," he told a *MIRROR* reporter. "Had we built at the Powell site, we would have needed one but not here."

Pascoe's reference was to property owned by Helen and Walter Powell at R.D. Carbondale, across from Homestead Golf Course, one of the proposed locations for the joint hospital facility. Another was along Route 6 just west of Childs.

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His fellow voters agreed to set up a meeting with the auditor.

An audit of city monies, conducted by John Hooper, raised Tolercio's seeking to "call in the auditor general or attorney general" to go over the city's financial statement, but he said he would table such a

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Welcome to the Carbondale Mirror's first edition

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Using some of the most modern equipment — Comp Jet 4510, Comp Jet 504, and 5404 — the Carbondale Mirror will be bringing its readers the best in local weekly newspaper coverage.

Putting the fancy names and numbers aside, the Mirror's equipment means that a reporter can directly type his or her story into a typesetting machine, making corrections and changes as it is typed.

Older style equipment forced the reporter to first type the story or feature onto a conventional typewriter, proofread it and make changes by marking the paper, handing it over to an editor who checked it again and then turned it over to a typesetter who typed it on a machine which translated it into codes which were then processed through another machine which translated it back into the columns were printed.

If that last sentence seems long and tiring, it serves to illustrate the speed with which Mirror reporters can now have their stories set.

The Carbondale Mirror operates under a corporation for which stock was sold to many individuals.

Contrary to rumors floating around the area since the conception of the Carbondale Mirror, no one who holds political office is a stockholder.

How this rumor started, we can only speculate.

But the truth is that no politicians or office holders own stock in the Carbondale Mirror's corporation.

From the outset the Mirror staff elected not to accept any financial help from office holders.

This does not mean that the Carbondale Mirror considers politicians corrupt. What it does mean is that the Mirror wants its readers to have the fullest confidence in its elected officials, not pulling the strings from behind.

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Head up the team is Paul Starnes, managing editor.

He has worked on weekly newspapers for the better part of 11 years, eight of which were as editor of a local weekly newspaper.

Feature editor of the Carbondale Mirror is Mr. Nan Waters who served four years on the Butler Eagle, a daily newspaper in western Pennsylvania. For the past couple of years she wrote feature stories and columns for a local weekly newspaper.

Peter T. Smith is night editor of the Carbondale Mirror. His newspaper background includes five years with a local weekly newspaper and over a year "stringing" with a Scranton daily. Smith's fire and police coverage has earned him many kudos in the past.

Serving as office manager and chief typesetter is Bernadette Starnes. Her background in newspaper and printing work goes back to 1969.

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Jermyn eyes new food store by late November

By NAN WATERS

By late November, 1981, the Borough of Jermyn should have a spanking new Convenience Food Mart in the center of its Washington Avenue business district, employing up to 15 people.

Jerry Zubert, president of Convenient Food Marts of Pennsylvania, which franchises eight other stores in the northeastern part of the state, confirmed it this week.

After some 18 months of negotiations with Jermyn property owners, Convenient, which operates 1000 stores nationally, plans to open a 3000-square-foot store in the area now occupied by two old, vacant structures on the town's main street.

Final negotiations are underway, Zubert said, for purchase of the two structures. The building at the corner of Washington Avenue and Franklin Street, 601-603-605 Washington, is reportedly owned by Samuel J. Chappell of Pottsville, who last operated the Village Craft Shop in a portion of the building. He formerly owned and operated a dress factory at that location.

The second structure, at 607 Washington, is reported to be owned by John Arndt of Carbondale, who last operated a printing business in it.

No purchase price was divulged for either building.

Zubert told the *MIRROR* that the new store would be Convenient's "standard size, 3000-square-foot building." It will feature

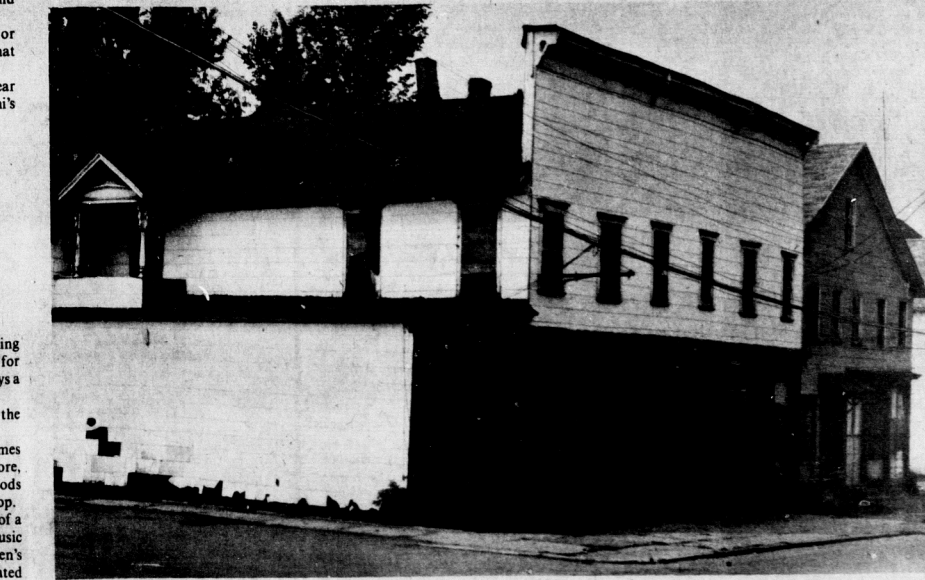
over 5000 items, including everything "except red meat," and will be open for business "from 7 a.m. to midnight 355 days a year."

Demolition has already begun on the Arndt building.

The Charge building has at various times in its history also housed a grocery store, barber shop, insurance office, A & P Food Store, pool room and confectionery shop.

The Arndt building has been the site of a bakery, primary confectionery store, music shop, flower and camera store, and men's haberdashery. Apartments were located over the business locations. The Arndt property was once known as the Bunt building.

COMING DOWN — These two structures on Washington Ave., Jermyn, are reportedly due for demolition to make way for a Convenience Food Mart.



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